

PATENT APPLICATION

Attorney Docket No. 3493.85423

communication system architectures in which the present invention may be implemented

now U.S. Patent No. 6,889,321

include those shown in, for example, U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/475,661^V and
U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/475,294 filed December 30, 1999, hereby
incorporated by reference for all purposes.

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5 As illustrated in Figure 1, the broadband communication system may include
plurality of customer premise equipment (CPE) 110 and 120 used to interface with a
broadband communication system, for example, Internet / broadband network 130. The
CPEs 110 and 120 may include, for example, a cable modem (CM) 111 and 121 coupled
to the Internet / Broadband Network 130 via a communication interface 115 and 125,
10 respectively. The communication interfaces 115 and 125 may be, for example, a coaxial
cable, optical fiber, radio waves, etc, as long as it can handle broadband communications.
Further, the CPEs 110 and 120 may include a personal computer (PC) 114 and 124, a
broadband telephone interface (BTI) 112 and 122, and a telephone, 113 and 123. The
cable modem 111 (or 121) and the broadband telephone interface 112 (or 122), may be
15 separate or integral in a single box such as a broadband residential gateway (BRG), and
may further include a television interface. Likewise, the CM 111 (or 121) and/or BTI
112 (or 122) may be included in the PC 114 (or 124).

The CPE 110 and 120 may further include a means for generating cryptographic
keys such as cryptography software, for example, Pretty Good Privacy (PGP). The
20 means for generating cryptographic keys may be contained in any of the CPE 110 and
120, for example in the PC 114 and 124 or in the BTI 112 and 122. Further, the means
for generating cryptographic key may include both hardware and software or may reside
somewhere else in the broadband communication system. In any case, the cryptographic